

SECRET

25X1

1 January 1982

SSG Briefing

Central AmericaEl Salvador

Squabbling among guerrilla factions, supply shortages, and army offensives are holding the insurgents in check to some degree. But the guerrillas remain effective particularly in their campaign against economic targets such as bridges and electrical and communications systems. Their clandestine supply network is in an active phase, suggesting preparations for an offensive. The coming training of 500 Salvadoran officers and a combat battalion in the U.S. should substantially improve the armed forces' capabilities.

25X1

Guatemala

Based on new intelligence, we have raised our estimates of the size of the insurgency from 2,000 to 4-5,000. The guerrilla network is formidable, but the military has made strides in disrupting it both in urban and rural areas. The Guatemalan presidential election will be held in March.

Honduras

Roberto Suazo of the Liberal Party will take the presidency this month (January) with the support of most of the armed forces.

Costa Rica

Elections in February will probably result in victory for Luis Alberto Monge of the National Liberation Party. He will face a horrendous economic situation, internal party problems, and a Cuban-supported effort to organize an extreme leftist group.

Nicaragua

Military buildup has been slowed somewhat by manpower shortages and training bottlenecks. Cuban and Soviet advisers continue to support the buildup, and we expect the Sandinistas to receive new weapons systems during the year. Anti-Sandinista guerrillas are operating across the borders in Honduras and Costa Rica.

SECRET

25X1